

April 8th, 2009

Sector Open House Subcommittee Meeting

Attendees:

Boaz Ashkenazy, Irene Wall, Christie Coxley, Kay Knapton

MEETING NOTES:

1. June 6th identified for the first possible NPAC/Planning Commission Open House. The times and places for these meetings have not yet been established.
2. The BIG QUESTION remains -- Where is the Space going to be for these Open Houses
3. In order for the June 6th meeting to be possible, the City would have to have the Status report information complete and available to the public by May 22nd. Will the City be ready?
4. After reviewing the proposed schedule issued by the city for the number of neighborhoods groups assigned to the first Open house all in the subcommittee were concerned about the size of the venue necessary to accommodate this size of group
5. Agenda for the Sector Open Houses might include: 1. Summarize Existing Plans, Explain Adoption Matrix, Summarize the Status Reports
6. Additional information presented might include the explanation of key questions "What is the Growth Management Act?", Why do we have a neighborhood plan in the first place and how are the plans used by the City and private property owners and developers? What force and effect are neighborhood plans expected to have?
7. It is important that the Open Houses are a forum for listening as well as presenting to the community
8. Discussed the matter of needing an objective authority with no special duty or allegiance to any outcome to present facts about expected growth and alternative ways to accommodate growth. Noted that CNC spent time trying to understand and explain how the city measures progress toward meeting household and job growth targets versus most people's understanding. Who can credibly deliver the message about what are the changes that need to be made? Is it someone from the Planning Commission? Is it an outside consultant, architect?
9. Discussed best ways to engage large groups of people at these meetings. Can we boil it down to 5 objective questions?
10. We were all in agreement that in order for these Open Houses to work we need to push the DPD to complete all their Status Reports ASAP. People in each planning area should have at least 2 weeks time ahead of their sector meeting to download and study their status report even if this is still a DRAFT document. We discussed how people will actually use the status reports. Some will pick apart all statistics and details; others will use as checklist to note more To Do items.

Committee began to brainstorm some potential questions to share the discussion at sector meetings including:

- a. This is what your neighborhood looks like now. What have we missed? What should we be focussing on?
- b. What is going on in your neighborhood that the city doesn't know about? What are the hot topics that need to get addressed?

- c. What do you think the neighborhood needs, in terms of physical improvements, services and or behavioral changes, and to do to accommodate the growth is projected? Are these realistic goal? If not, why not?
- d. How have the mixed-use developments done in the city? What would be your suggestions of how we would improve them?
- e. How in your neighborhood plan should we incorporate mixed income housing and social services?
- f. How big do you want Seattle and your neighborhood to be? Will Seattle be a better place with a population approaching one million? Is that our goal?

ACTION ITEMS:

Because all NPAC member will be needed to help at these open houses, we recommend that we all get training as Facilitators to get on the same page (NPAC and Planning Commission)

NPAC and Planning Commissions need to have a meeting soon for training. (Mid May?)